

## The Greatest Battles in History: The Battle of Okinawa



If you die there will be no one left who knows the truth about the Battle of Okinawa. Bear the temporary shame but endure it. This is an order from your army Commander. (Mitsuru Ushijima to Colonel Hiromichi Yahara) Near the end of 1944, as Allied forces were pushing across the Pacific and edging ever closer to Japan, plans were drawn up to invade the Ryuku islands, the most prominent of them being Okinawa. Military planners anticipated that an amphibious campaign would last a week, but instead of facing 60,000 Japanese defenders as estimated, there were closer to 120,000 on the island at the beginning of the campaign in April 1945. The Battle of Okinawa was the largest amphibious operation in the Pacific theater, and it would last nearly three months and wind up being the fiercest in the Pacific theater during the war, with nearly 60 thousand American casualties and over 100 thousand Japanese soldiers killed. In addition, the battle resulted in an estimated 40 thousand - 150 thousand Japanese civilian casualties. Okinawa witnessed every conceivable horror of war both on land and at sea. American ground forces on Okinawa had to deal with bad weather (including a typhoon), antitank moats, barbed wire, mines, caves, underground tunnel networks, and fanatical Japanese soldiers who were willing to use human shields while fighting to the death. Allied naval forces supporting the amphibious invasion had to contend with Japan's notorious kamikazes, suicide pilots who terrorized sailors as they frantically tried to shoot down the Japanese planes before they could hit Allied ships. As one sailor aboard the USS Miami recalled, They came in swarms from all directions. The barrels of our ships guns got so hot we had to use fire hoses to cool them down.

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southeast and south of Japan, they were only 750 miles from major military and political targets. **List of 10 Greatest Battles of the Pacific War - History Lists** Apr 18, 2014 Includes historic pictures of the fighting. \*Includes pictures of important people, places, and events. \*Includes a bibliography for further reading. **Iwo Jima and Okinawa (Feb 19, 1945 - Jun 21, 1945) in World War II** Mar 16, 2016 Japans Greatest Victories and Most Notable Defeats During WWII. From the Battle of Singapore to the Battle of Okinawa. in reserve and deployed hundreds of thousands of troops for home island battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. These were the largest land defeats in Japanese military history. **10 Deadliest Battles in American History History Lists** It was the second biggest amphibious battle (from sea to land) of World War II, after the It was also one of the longest battles in history, from April to June 1945. **11: Battle of Okinawa - The Hawaii Nisei Story** The Battle of Okinawa (Japanese: ???, Hepburn: Okinawa-sen) (Okinawan: ???, translit. Uchinaa ikusa), codenamed Operation Iceberg, was a series of battles fought in the Japanese Ryukyu Islands, centered on the island of Okinawa, and included the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War .. In its history of the war, the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum